

2018 Summary

KODIAK SPORT FISH MANAGEMENT AREA



Ayakulik River

The king salmon run fell below the Biological Escapement Goal (BEG) of 4,800-8,400 fish with a weir count of 2,149 salmon. As in 2017, the weir count should be considered a minimum number as high water prompted weir panels to be pulled several times at the peak of the king salmon run. A DIDSON sonar was installed but was only occasionally able to differentiate king salmon from sockeye salmon; therefore, estimates were made using 10-year average counts for the days the weir was out. The mid-point of the run occurred on June 21, 2018, which is similar to historical run-timing.

Management Actions

- A preseason emergency order effective June 1, 2018, prohibited the retention of king salmon in the Ayakulik River drainage.

Table 1. Summary of preliminary catch, harvest, and escapement, Ayakulik River king salmon fishery, 2018.

Escapement Goal Range	BEG = 4,800-8,400
Total Catch	TBD
Total Harvest	0
Weir Count	2,149
Preliminary Escapement	2,149

Karluk River

The king salmon run was within the BEG of 3,000-7,000 fish with a weir count of 3,154 salmon, which was only the 4th time in the previous 10 years. The mid-point of the run occurred on June 23, 2018, which is similar to historical run-timing. The Karluk River has been not been open to the harvest of king salmon since 2007 and sport fishing for king salmon has been entirely closed since 2008.



Management Actions

- A preseason emergency order effective June 1, 2018, closed the Karluk River drainage to sport fishing for king salmon. In addition, the use of bait was prohibited and only one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure was allowed in the Karluk River drainage below Karluk Lake.

Table 2. Summary of preliminary catch, harvest and escapement, Karluk River king salmon fishery, 2018.

Escapement Goal Range	BEG = 3,000-6,000
Total Catch	TBD
Total Harvest	0
Weir Count	3,154
Preliminary Escapement	3,154

Chignik River

The king salmon run fell below the BEG of 1,300-2,700 fish with a weir count of 825 salmon and was one of the lowest counts on record similar to early run sockeye salmon in the drainage. The mid-point of the run occurred on July 15, 2018, which is similar to historical run-timing.

Management Actions

- On July 13, 2018, the Chignik River drainage closed to sport fishing for king salmon. In addition, the use of bait was prohibited and only one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure was allowed.

Table 3. Summary of preliminary catch, harvest and escapement, Chignik River king salmon fishery, 2018.

Escapement Goal Range	BEG = 1,300-2,700
Total Catch	TBD
Total Harvest	TBD
Weir Count	825
Preliminary Escapement	825

Nelson River

The 2018 weir count for king salmon was 5,022 fish. This was above BEG of 2,400-4,400 salmon. There is no retention in this fishery throughout the season based on regulations enacted in 2011. The weir count does not include a post-season estimate to be added from fish observed below the weir. The mid-point of the run occurred on July 2, 2018, which is earlier than historical run-timing.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2018 sport fishery.



Table 4. Summary of preliminary catch, harvest and escapement, Nelson River king salmon fishery, 2018.

Escapement Goal Range	BEG = 2,400-4,400
Total Catch	0
Total Harvest	0
Weir Count	5,022
Preliminary Escapement	5,022

Stocked Kodiak Road System Streams

Each year the Olds River, American River, and Salonie Creek are stocked with up to 80,000 king salmon smolt. The stocked Kodiak road system streams had low returns this year and little harvest in the sport fishery this year. Returns to the Olds River produced some early king salmon that were caught in Kalsin Bay and the lower Olds River, but much fewer than expected. Returns to the American River were also lower than expected though anglers did catch some fish. Salonie Creek had a few more fish return and was the primary collection point for broodstock for the project this season. Though king salmon have not been stocked in Monashka creek in the past three years, this would have been the last year of returns to the creek but no king salmon were seen returning to Monashka Creek. Egg take goals were not met this year. To compensate for this shortfall, extra coho salmon are stocked to supplement king salmon production. The 2018 king salmon egg take spawned 22 pairs which should produce at least 100,000 eggs, though this is well short of the goal to release 200,000 king salmon smolt. Coho salmon will be taken again in early November to supplement this shortfall.

Management Actions

- A preseason emergency order effective June 1, 2018, prohibited sport fishing for king salmon in the waters of Monashka Creek drainage and Monashka Bay in order to obtain enough king salmon broodstock to stock the Kodiak road system streams.



Karluk River

The early sockeye salmon run fell within the BEG of 150,000-250,000 fish with a weir count of 198,877 salmon. Little harvest occurs upstream of the weir and escapement is likely equal to the weir count. Harvest of sockeye salmon by anglers on the Karluk River is minimal compared to the size of the run but it remains one of the larger sockeye salmon sport fisheries on Kodiak.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2018 sport fishery.



Ayakulik River

The early sockeye salmon run fell within the BEG of 140,000-280,000 fish with a weir count of 189,088 salmon. Harvest of sockeye salmon by anglers on the Ayakulik River is minimal compared to the size of the run but it remains one of the larger sockeye salmon sport fisheries on Kodiak.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2018 sport fishery.

Buskin River

The sockeye salmon run fell below the BEG of 5,000-8,000 fish with a weir count of 4,278 salmon. No harvest occurs upstream of the weir which is located just downstream from Buskin Lake and escapement is equal to the weir count. The mid-point of the run occurred on July 22, 2018, which is about a month later than historical run-timing. The Buskin River sockeye salmon run followed trends seen in many other systems throughout the state such as Chignik, Afognak, and Copper rivers.

Management Actions

- On June 16, 2018, the Buskin River sockeye salmon sport fishery was closed.

Saltery Cove

The sockeye salmon run was within the escapement goal of 15,000-35,000 fish with a weir count of 22,845 salmon. No harvest occurs upstream of the weir and escapement is equal to the weir count. The mid-point of the run occurred on July 23, 2018, which is slightly later than historical run-timing. This is the largest freshwater sport fishery on Kodiak by angler effort and harvest for a single stock. This fishery had been liberalized annually since 2015 and in most years since weir operation began in 2009; however, the run was somewhat smaller and later than most recent years.

Management Actions

- On July 12, 2018, the Saltery Cove drainage sockeye salmon bag and possession limits were reduced to two fish per day and in possession.
- On July 31, 2018, the Saltery Cove drainage sockeye salmon bag and possession limits were restored to five fish.

Pasagshak River

The sockeye salmon run came in below the lower bound Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) of 3,000 fish with a weir count of 2,019 salmon. No harvest occurs upstream of the weir and escapement is equal to the weir count. This run followed similar trends to the Buskin and many other sockeye salmon runs statewide. The mid-point of the run occurred on July 24, 2018, which is later than historical run-timing. The weir has only been in operation since 2011.

Management Actions

- On July 12, 2018, the Pasagshak River drainage sockeye salmon sport fishery was closed.



Afognak River

The sockeye salmon run came in below the BEG of 20,000-50,000 fish with a weir count of 17,601 salmon. This is one of the earliest sockeye salmon runs on the island but followed the trends of most other early sockeye runs being late and weak. The mid-point of the run occurred on June 27, 2018 and was later than historical run-timing.

Management Actions

- On June 16, 2018, the Afognak River drainage sockeye salmon sport fishery closed.



Buskin River

The BEG for Buskin River coho salmon is 4,700-9,600 fish and the 2018 run is ongoing. The run is expected to be within the BEG range, but counts are lower than usual due to low water conditions prevalent for much of the season so far. To date, 998 coho salmon have been counted through the weir located about one mile upstream from the river mouth. The weir will be operated through the end of September when coho salmon returns have typically started to wane.

Management Actions

- To date, no management actions were implemented for the 2018 sport fishery.

Olds River

The lower bound SEG for Olds River coho salmon is 1,000 fish and the 2018 run is ongoing. The 2018 run is expected to be above the range and the run appears to be strong, though Olds River has also been affected by low water conditions. The latest drone survey resulted in well over 1,000 coho counted, though sport fishing harvest will occur for a few weeks still. The Olds River coho salmon run is assessed via in season drone surveys and post season foot surveys. Final escapement estimates will be documented via post season foot surveys in October.

Management Actions

- To date, no management actions have been implemented during the 2018 sport fishery.

American River

The lower bound SEG for American River coho salmon is 400 fish and the 2018 run is ongoing. The 2018 run is expected to be above the range and the run appears average so far. The latest drone survey resulted in approximately 300 coho salmon counted and similar low water conditions are affecting this drainage as well. The American River coho salmon run is assessed via in season drone surveys and post season foot surveys. Final escapement estimates will be documented via post season foot surveys in October.

Management Actions

- To date, no management actions have been implemented during the 2018 sport fishery.



Pasagshak River

The lower bound SEG for Pasagshak River coho salmon is 1,200 fish and the 2018 run is ongoing. The 2018 run is expected to be above the range and recent observations indicate a strong run. The latest drone survey resulted in more than 1,200 coho salmon counted, though sport harvest will continue for a few weeks. The Pasagshak River coho salmon run is assessed via in season drone surveys and post season foot surveys. Final escapement estimates will be documented via post season foot surveys in November.

Management Actions

- On September 22, 2018, the coho salmon bag and possession limits, 20 inches or greater in length, were increased to two fish in the Pasagshak River drainage.



Table 1 – Select Southcentral Region Salmon Escapement Goals and Escapements, 2009 to 2018 (preliminary).

System	2017 Goal Range		Type	Initial Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Preliminary 2018		
	Lower	Upper														
KING SALMON																
Bristol Bay																
Nushagak River	55,000	120,000	SEG	2003	74,781	56,088	102,258	167,618	107,602	70,482	98,019	125,368	56,961	97,239		
Alagnak River	2,700		LB SEG	2007	1,957	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	917	1,283	435	NS		
Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula																
Karluk River	3,000	6,000	BEG	2011	1,306	2,917	3,420	3,197	1,824	1,182	2,777	3,434	2,600	3,155		
Ayakulik River	4,800	8,400	BEG	2017	2,615	5,197	4,251	4,556	2,304	789	2,392	4,594	3,712	2,149		
Chignik River	1,300	2,700	BEG	2002	1,590	3,845	2,490	1,404	1,185	2,895	2,041	1,843	1,137	825		
Nelson River	2,400	4,400	BEG	2004	2,048	2,767	1,704	1,192	1,421	3,801	2,440	4,618	1,502	5,022		
Upper Cook Inlet																
Alexander Creek	2,100	6,000	SEG	2002	275	177	343	181	588	911	1,117	754	170	296		
Campbell Creek	380		LB SEG	2011	554	290	260	NS	NS	274	654	544	475			
Chuitna River	1,200	2,900	SEG	2002	1,040	735	719	502	1,690	1,398	1,965	1,372	235	939		
Chulitna River	1,800	5,100	SEG	2002	2,093	1,052	1,875	667	1,262	1,011	3,137	1,151	NC	1,125		
Clear (Chumina) Creek	950	3,400	SEG	2002	1,205	903	512	1,177	1,471	1,390	1,205	NS	780	940		
Crooked Creek	650	1,700	SEG	2002	617	1,088	654	631	1,103	1,411	1,459	1,747	911	714		
Deshka River	13,000	28,000	SEG	2011	11,967	18,594	19,026	14,010	18,531	16,335	24,316	22,874	11,383	8,544		
Goose Creek	250	650	SEG	2002	65	76	80	57	62	232	NC	NC	148	90		
Kenai River - Early Run (all fish)	eliminated ^d			2017	6,163	6,393	8,448	5,044	2,148	5,311	6,190	9,177				
Kenai River - Early Run (large fish)	3,900	6,600	OEG	2017									6,553	3,000		
	2,800	5,600	SEG	2017												
Kenai River - Late Run (all fish)	eliminated			2017	21,390	16,210	19,680	27,710	15,395	16,263	22,626	18,790				
Kenai River - Late Run (large fish)	13,500	27,000	SEG	2017									20,731	16,957		
Lewis River	250	800	SEG	2002	111	56	92	107	61	61	5 ^b	0	0 ^c	0		
Little Susitna River (Aerial) ^f	900	1,800	SEG	2002	1,028	589	887	1,154	1,651	1,759	1,507	1,622	1,192	530		
Little Susitna River (weir)	2,100	4,300	SEG	2017									2,531	549 ^g		
Little Willow Creek	450	1,800	SEG	2002	776	468	713	494	858	684	788	675	840	280		
Montana Creek	1,100	3,100	SEG	2002	1,460	755	494	416	1,304	953	1,416	692	603	473		
Peters Creek	1,000	2,600	SEG	2002	1,283	NC	1,103	459	1,643	1,443	1,514	1,122	307	1,674		
Prairie Creek	3,100	9,200	SEG	2002	3,500	3,022	2,038	1,185	3,304	2,812	3,290	1,853	1,930	1,194		
Sheep Creek	600	1,200	SEG	2002	500	NC	350	363	NC	262	NC	NC	NC	334		
Talachulitna River	2,200	5,000	SEG	2002	2,608	1,499	1,368	847	2,285	2,256	2,582	4,295	1,087	1,483		
Theodore River	500	1,700	SEG	2002	352	202	327	179	476	312	426	68	21	18		
Willow Creek	1,600	2,800	SEG	2002	1,133	1,173	1,061	756	1,752	1,335	2,046	1,814	1,329	411		
Lower Cook Inlet																
Anchor River	3,800	7,600	SEG	2017	3,455	4,449	3,545	4,509	4,388	2,497	10,049	7,146	5,796	3,049		
Deep Creek	350		LB SEG	2017	483	387	696	447	475	601	535	NS	753	2,190		
Ninilchik River	750	1,300	SEG	2017	528	605	668	555	571	891	874	572	855	944		
COHO SALMON																
Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula																
Buskin River	4,700	9,600	BEG	2014	9,583	6,239	5,298	4,906	4,401	7,345	3,363	2,513	5,559	1,066		
Olds River	1,000		LB SEG	2011	697	NA	1,003	624	2,145	1,320	1,357	1,634	10,54	1,000		
American River	400		LB SEG	2011	639	NA	1,061	427	841	1,595	530	500	410	300		
Pasagshak River	1,200		LB SEG	2011	2,385	1,971	1,083	3,132	1,648	4,934	1,790	667	701	1,200		
Upper Cook Inlet																
Fish Creek (Knik)	1,200	4,400	SEG	2011	8,214	6,977	1,428 ^d	1,237	7,593 ^d	10,283	7,912	2,484	8,966	5,022		
Jim Creek	450	1,400	SEG	2014	1,331	242	229	213	663	122	571	106	607	758		
Little Susitna River	10,100	17,700	SEG	2002	9,523	9,214	4,826	6,779	13,583 ^e	24,211	12,756 ^e	10,049	17,781	7,583		
Deshka River	10,200	24,100	SEG	2017									36,869	12,962		
SOCKEYE SALMON																
Bristol Bay																
Kvichak River ^f	2,000,000	10,000,000	SEG	2010	2,266,140	4,207,410	2,264,352	4,164,444	2,088,576	4,458,540	7,341,612	4,462,728	3,163,404	4,398,708		
Alagnak River (Tower) ^g	320,000		LB SEG	2007	970,818	1,187,730	883,794	861,747	1,095,950	200,524	5,770,650	NA	2,041,825	1,581,426		
Alagnak River (Aerial) ^h	125,000		LB SEG	2016								696,400	629,200			
Naknek River	800,000	2,000,000	SEG ⁱ	2015	1,169,466	1,463,928	1,177,074	900,312	938,160	1,474,428	1,920,954	1,691,910	1,899,972	2,221,152		
Egegik River	800,000	2,000,000	SEG	2015	1,146,276	927,054	961,200	1,233,900	1,113,630	1,382,466	2,160,792	1,837,260	2,600,982	1,608,354		
Ugashik River	500,000	1,400,000	SEG	2015	1,364,338	830,886	1,029,853	670,578	898,110	640,158	1,564,638	1,635,270	1,186,446	1,167,792		
Wood River	700,000	1,800,000	SEG	2015	1,319,232	1,804,344	1,098,006	764,202	1,183,348	2,764,614	1,941,474	1,309,707	4,274,224	7,507,254		
Igushik River	150,000	400,000	SEG	2015	514,188	518,040	421,380	193,770	387,036	340,590	651,172	469,230	578,700	1,581,426		
Nushagak River	260,000	760,000	OEG	2012	484,149	468,696	428,191	432,438	894,172	618,477	796,684	680,513	2,852,308	1,164,701		
Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula																
Buskin River	5,000	8,000	BEG	2011	7,757	9,800	11,982	8,565	16,189	13,976	8,719	11,584	7,214	4,281		
Afognak River	20,000	50,000	BEG	2005	31,358	52,255	49,193	41,553	42,153	36,345	38,151	33,167	22,151	17,601		
Saltery River	15,000	35,000	BEG	2011	43,468	24,102	27,803	25,155	35,939	29,047	42,468	57,867	39,315	22,845		
Pasagshak River	3,000		lower-bound SEG	2011	1,400	4,800	8,100	2,600	9,750	1,582	2,077	7,053	11,021	2,019		
Karluk River	150,000	250,000	BEG	2014	52,798	71,453	87,049	188,085	234,880	252,097	233,036	164,760	235,225	475,279		
Ayakulik River	140,000	280,000	SEG	2011	200,648	201,933	177,480	213,501	214,969	210,040	218,178	182,589	204,497	266,333		
Fraser River	75,000	170,000	BEG	2008	101,845	94,680	134,642	148,884	136,059	200,296	219,093	122,585	129,227	201,161		
Upper Cook Inlet																
Fish Creek (Knik)	15,000	45,000	SEG	2017	83,480	126,836	66,678	18,813	18,912	43,915	102,309	46,202	63,882	72,157		
Kasilof River	160,000	390,000	OEG	2011	324,783	293,765	243,767	372,523	487,700	438,238	470,677	239,981	358,724	394,288		
	160,000	340,000	BEG	2011												
Kenai River ^j	OEG eliminated			2017	848,117	1,038,302	1,280,733	1,212,921	980,208	1,218,342	1,400,047	1,120,717				
	700,000	1,200,000	SEG	2011									1,055,091	NA		
Russian River - Early Run	22,000	42,000	BEG	2011	52,178	27,074	29,129	24,115	35,776	44,920	50,226	38,739	37,123	44,110		
Russian River - Late Run	30,000	110,000	SEG	2005	80,088	38,848	41,529	54,911	31,364	52,277	46,223	37,837	45,012	71,052		
Chelatna Lake	20,000	45,000	SEG	2017	17,721	37,784	70,353	36,577	70,555	26,212	69,750	60,792	26,986	20,438		
Judd Lake	15,000	40,000	SEG	2017	44,616	18,361	39,997	18,303	14,088	22,416	47,684	NA	35,731	30,844		
Larson Lake	15,000	35,000	SEG	2017	40,933	20,324	12,413	16,708	21,821	12,040	23,214	14,333	31,866	23,444		
Lower Cook Inlet																
English Bay	6,000	13,500	SEG	2002	18,183	12,253	9,920	3,444	10,891	7,832	6,290	7,673	20,751	18,083		
Delight Lake	5,100	10,600	SEG	2017	12,700	23,775	20,190	10,887	5,961	22,289	3,220	5,110	5,380	13,428		
Desire Lake	4,800	11,900	SEG	2017	16,000	6,320	9,630	8,840	8,400	11,480	2,830	6,740	9,450	9,840		
Bear Lake	700	8,300	SEG	2002	10,364	8,880	9,608	8,031	8,999	9,090	9,560	9,011	9,207	12,755		